

future. By 1915, it is reported that one French-based company had sold more than 11,000 policies in the area. Almost all of these policyholders were massacred when a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing was launched, killing more than 1.5 million Armenians.

Over eighty years later, insurance companies still have not paid the benefits due on the thousands of policies sold. Some families have tried for years to obtain owed benefits, but insurance companies have demanded that the survivors produce non-existent documents, such as death certificates.

In order to provide victims with the justice they deserve, California enacted legislation to assist both Armenian victims and Holocaust victims in recovering outstanding insurance claims. In addition to providing a right of action for claims arising out of such policies, California enacted an additional law requiring insurance companies doing business in their state to disclose information about Holocaust-era insurance policies. A similar requirement was omitted from the Armenian victims legislation because of a pending Supreme Court challenge of the Holocaust disclosure law.

In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court in *AIA v. Garamendi* recently struck down the California disclosure law, citing Administration efforts to settle Holocaust insurance claims and stating that "Congress has done nothing to express disapproval of the President's policy [with respect to settling such claims and preempting state efforts in this area]."

Although no similar Administration efforts have interfered with the settlement of Armenian claims, it is important for Congress to speak clearly on this issue. Private settlement negotiations between insurance companies and families have been slow with no final resolutions reached to date. Families should not have to wait any longer for disclosure of policyholder lists.

I have introduced two pieces of legislation to specifically allow states to collect insurance information for victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust. The Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act specifically provides states with the authority to pass disclosure laws related to insurance policies in effect at any time between 1875 and 1923 that were issued to persons domiciled in the Ottoman Empire, such as Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians.

The Armenian Victims Insurance Fairness Act, and my companion legislation the Holocaust Victims Insurance Fairness Act (H.R. 3129), specifically provide states with the authority to pass policyholder disclosure laws and explicitly express Congressional disapproval of any Executive branch policy or agreement that preempts State efforts in this area. Please join me in this effort to finally provide justice to those who have been denied it for so long.

RECOGNIZING PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of recognizing Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. This resolution

comes at a fitting time for me and other Members and staff in the House. I recently lost a good friend and former aide, Barry Beringer, to pancreatic cancer.

Barry was a remarkable man, a warm friend and a consummate counsel. His love of history permeated his work as a Committee General Counsel. His warmth and gently inclusive approach to difficult negotiations and situations made him a friend to all, even to those who may have disagreed with him. His pure motives earned him universal respect and admiration from his friends and colleagues.

Barry served as my General Counsel during my tenure as Chairman of the House Science Committee. His sage advice, thoughtful perspective, and his respect for the history of the institution guided many a decision. His counsel was invaluable and will be missed greatly not only by me but by all who worked with him and around him. His warm humor and collegial approach to everything is unique in this institution . . . and will be missed.

In addition to being a loving husband and father, Barry was a loving human being who left us all richer for having known and worked with him.

Congressman Platts introduced this important resolution to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. Unfortunately, no one knows the exact causes of pancreatic cancer. Doctors are rarely able to explain why one person gets pancreatic cancer and another does not. I am pleased that the House is acknowledging this deadly disease and raising awareness of pancreatic cancer so others may not suffer the same fate as my friend Barry.

HONORING TYLER MATTHEW PINCHOT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tyler Matthew Pinchot, a 23-year veteran of the Buena Park Police Department.

Tyler was raised in my district in the city of Garden Grove and he was a graduate of Golden West College's police program in 1979.

He was the only Buena Park police officer to win the Officer of the Year Award two years in a row in 1991 and 1992.

When not on duty protecting citizens, he volunteered his time for his community. He was a Special Weapons and Tactics team member, station house Santa Claus and a tactical officer at Fullerton College's police reserve academy.

Sadly, on June 13 Tyler was trying to catch up to a traffic violator when a car struck his motorcycle. He later died as a result of his injuries.

Tyler was a great citizen. He was a man who devoted himself to his community. His hard work and dedication will serve as an inspiration to others.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Citizens Financial Group on being recognized with both the "Seven Seals" and "Pro Patria" awards.

In response to the U.S. military actions in Iraq, this Rhode Island business implemented an enhanced military leave policy in February of 2003 that included matched pay, continuance of insurance coverage, job guarantee upon return, and support to employees affected by a family member's call to duty. Due to this comprehensive policy, the Office of the Secretary of Defense awarded Citizens the New Hampshire Committee for the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve "Seven Seals" award, and the Rhode Island Guard and Reserve gave the company its "Pro Patria" award. The "Pro Patria" award honors the most outstanding employer of reservists.

Citizens Financial Group should be commended for the work they have done to help ensure an employee will not undergo financial or emotional hardships after he or she is called upon to protect our country. It is my hope that other businesses will follow in these noble steps to show much-deserved gratitude for members of the National Guard and Reserves.

I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Citizens Financial Group on its achievements.

TRIBUTE TO THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as cochairmen of the Congressional Native American Caucus, my colleague Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH and I would like to ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation on the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. This landmark legislation settled the Tribes' land claim and granted federal recognition to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years, this land has been home to the Mashantucket Pequots and their ancestors. Centuries before the arrival of Columbus, the Pequots had a sophisticated understanding of their land, which stretched across present-day South-eastern Connecticut.

Like other northeastern Tribes, the Pequots had developed a rich and complex culture. Their language, medicine, rituals, horticulture, trade, government, and social organization defined what it meant to be a Pequot. Within two decades of contact with the white settlers, smallpox and other diseases killed more than half of the Pequots and devastated the social structure of those who survived. Then, in 1637, the settlers in colonial Massachusetts

and Connecticut waged war on the Tribe. In a little more than an hour, hundreds of Pequot men, women and children died. The survivors were dispersed, and the settlers took their land.

As a testament to the bravery and resiliency of the Pequot people, these tragic events did not bring about the end of the Pequot Tribe. Rather, the past three centuries has marked a period of strife, conflict, and a determination to regain its land and bring its people home.

Mr. Speaker, two important themes run through the Pequot history: a persistence to maintain a tribal identity and a struggle to hold onto tribal land. By the mid-17th century, the Mashantucket Pequots had already returned to the land from which they had been banished. In the decades that followed, they were relocated to an area within their historic territory, but then were slowly and wrongfully deprived of most of that land as well. Throughout the centuries, the reservation's population dwindled as Tribal members were forced to seek jobs and housing elsewhere. For many years, the State of Connecticut blocked the return of Tribal members to their land. Still, the Tribe endured.

Finally, in 1983, after years and years of struggle, the Congress enacted the legislation that settled the Tribes' land claim and provided federal recognition to the Tribe. The legislation transformed all aspects of the Tribe's existence and was critical in the Tribe's dramatic economic resurgence. Through the years, Tribal members have worked to re-establish a community and are achieving self-sufficiency by providing employment, health care, social services, education and infrastructure to their people.

A primary concern of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation continues to be the preservation of Pequot history and culture. To accomplish this, the Nation maintains a Cultural Resources Department and a Historical and Preservation Committee made up of Tribal members. The Tribe has also worked to protect important archaeological sites within its territory.

Mr. Speaker, in a short twenty years, the Mashantucket Tribal Nation, led by their elected leaders, have done so much to protect and enhance the tribal sovereignty of their people. They have persevered as a Tribe for centuries under the harshest of conditions and their status as a federally recognized Tribe has been long overdue. Today, the Tribe is an economic catalyst in their community and they employ over 13,000 people, mainly non-Indians needing jobs and opportunity.

The Mashantucket Pequots are also responsible neighbors. Over the last 20 years, the Tribe has generously donated to the Connecticut Special Olympics, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Mystic Marine Life Aquarium, the United Way and many other organizations. Additionally, their revenue sharing agreement with the State of Connecticut has provided State coffers over \$1.5 billion in additional revenue.

We ask our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join us in congratulating the Mashantucket Pequots on the 20th anniversary of the passage of this legislation and wish them continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING DR. TONDA HUGHES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Dr. Tonda Hughes, who was recently named to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for her scientific contributions and advocacy in lesbian health.

Dr. Hughes has spent over a decade conducting research on the health needs of lesbian women. She is currently conducting the first long-term assessment of lesbian women's drinking patterns, the results of which will have important policy implications for treatment and prevention. Lesbian health has been largely ignored by scientists, and Dr. Hughes' work represents much-needed efforts to better the lives of lesbian Americans and all Americans.

Dr. Hughes is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is the director of research for the University's Center of Excellence in Women's Health. She has published professional journal articles, book chapters, and government monographs. In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Hughes serves on advisory boards for several Chicago-area health foundations.

Each year since 1991, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has honored members of the Chicago lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The only municipal hall of fame of its kind, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame recognizes members of the Chicago community whose volunteer and professional activities have enriched the lives of gay and lesbian residents and the city of Chicago as a whole.

I congratulate Dr. Tonda Hughes for this honor and applaud her important research and the beneficial effects her work has had on the well-being of lesbian women in Chicago and beyond.

FIFTH ANNUAL RACE FOR THE CURE IN TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, there will be an estimated 21,100 new cases of female breast cancer in California this year. Breast cancer is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in women in the United States. Every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.

All of us know someone who has been touched by this disease. That is why I am proud to announce that this Sunday, October 19, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation will sponsor the fifth annual Race for the Cure in Temecula, CA.

All the funds raised during the event will go to support breast cancer research grants, meritorious awards, educational and scientific conferences and local breast health and breast cancer outreach programs.

Mr. Speaker by supporting such private efforts as the annual Race for the Cure, we pay

tribute to the victims and survivors of breast cancer. We also honor those whose efforts will one day eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY COMMONS NURSING CARE CENTER

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the city of Worcester in celebrating the University Commons Nursing Care Center's 10 years of service. During the week of October 20–25, 2003, the Center will celebrate its anniversary with events honoring residents, staff, and families.

Affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Health Care, The University Commons Nursing Care Center is a 164-bed facility that provides skilled, sub-acute, and long-term care services. Residents benefit from an environment that provides expert rehabilitation and medical services. Residents also benefit from social and cultural activities that are designed to maximize opportunities for stimulation and growth. Moreover, the University Commons Child Care Service offers educational day care services to children of employees as well as the community at large. This provides residents with an on-going intergenerational program.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the University Commons Nursing Care Center for its 10 years of service to the community.

SECTION 8e LEGISLATION

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Washington state the largest pear and sweet cherry producing state in the nation. In recent years pear and cherry growers in Central Washington have invested time and resources into developing the market for high quality fruit.

Under federal marketing orders U.S. fruits and vegetables are held to certain grade, size and quality standards. The bill I am introducing today simply holds foreign grown pears and cherries to these same standards.

My bill would add pears and cherries to Section 8e of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Section 8e lists certain imported fruits and vegetables that are held to the same federal requirements as domestic produce.

Agriculture is at the heart of Central Washington's economy and our farmers are working harder than ever to produce some of the world's finest products. My bill would ensure that our pear and cherry farmers are able to compete more fairly and aggressively with foreign growers in the U.S. marketplace.